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# Luton Rural District Council



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ANNUAL



REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1961



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Luton Rural District Council

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# To the Luton Rural District Council

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1961

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October, 1962.

The Chairman and Councillors of the  
Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1961.

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year and there were no serious epidemics except Measles that was very prevalent.

It is noteworthy that the population of the District has now practically doubled during the last ten years.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the help that has always been given to me by the Clerk of the Council and the Public Health Inspectors.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**H. A. A. PARGETER,**

Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Luton.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

#### *Medical Officer of Health*

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A. (Cantab), M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),  
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

#### *Senior Public Health Inspector*

L. G. HILL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

#### *Additional Public Health Inspector*

T. C. OLIVER, M.R.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

# Statistics and Social Conditions

## Vital Statistics

Area of District	...	...	...	47,994 acres
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	37,540
Number of inhabited houses (approximate)	...	...	...	11,000
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1961	...	...	...	£383,014
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,634
Number of new houses erected:				
(a) Council	...	...	...	597
(b) Private enterprise	...	...	...	449

## Extracts from vital statistics for the year

The following table gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1961 as furnished by the Registrar-General: —

### Live Births:

Legitimate ...	
Illegitimate	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...

Total	M.	F.
973	511	462
930	484	446
43	27	16
Crude Rate	25.9	
Adjusted Rate	22.3	

### Still Births:

Legitimate ...	
Illegitimate	
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...
Rate per 1,000 of population	...

Total	M.	F.
10	6	4
9	5	4
1	1	—
	10.1	
	0.3	

### Total Live and Still Births:

Live	...	...
Still	...	...

Total	M.	F.
973	511	462
10	6	4
983	517	466

## Deaths of Infants

### INFANT DEATHS (under one year of age):

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 births		
					Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male	...	9	1	10			
Female	...	11	—	11			
Total	...	20	1	21	21.6	20.6	1.02

# INFANT DEATHS (under four weeks of age):

		Rate per 1,000 births		
		Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Male	...	7	1	8
Female	...	9	—	9
Total	...	16	1	17
		17.5	16.4	1.02

Illegitimate Live Births = 3.4% of total live births.

Maternal deaths ... Nil

## Deaths :

Male	...	115
Female	...	101
Total	...	216

## Death Rate :

Crude	...	5.8
Adjusted	...	8.4

## CAUSE OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All Causes	115	101
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	1	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	—
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	18	18
18. Coronary disease, angina	21	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
20. Other heart disease	7	14
21. Other circulatory disease	5	7
22. Influenza	2	—
23. Pneumonia	3	6
24. Bronchitis	7	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34. All other accidents	3	—
35. Suicide	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—

## POPULATION

The Population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1961 was 37,540 and the table below shows that there has been a total increase of population of 17,450 in the last eight years.

## Population 1954 — 1961

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural Increase
1954	20,090	—	6.3
1955	20,690	600	8.1
1956	22,530	1,840	9.8
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9

'Natural Increase' shows the difference between the birth and death rates. The average yearly increase in the last five years is 3,003.

### Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar-General supplies a 'comparability factor' to all areas so that an adjusted Birth Rate can be made. The 'factor' for this District is 0.86.

The Birth Rate for 1960 was 22.3 after multiplying the 'crude' Birth Rate of 25.9 by the 'comparability factor.' The Birth Rate for England and Wales as a whole was 17.4.

The total number of live births was 973.

### Still Births

The number of still births was 10 and the Still Birth Rate 0.26 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was 10.2.

### Death Rate

The uncorrected Death Rate was 5.8. To make allowance for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the 'comparability factor' of 1.45, by which a corrected Death Rate of 8.4 is obtained.

### Infant Mortality

The following table shows deaths of infants from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	0-	Weeks			Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
		1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity ...	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Respiratory failure ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cardiac failure ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
Birth injury ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
Rheus incompatibility ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	16	—	1	—	17	1	3	—	—	21

# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1952-1961

LIVE BIRTHS		STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS					
Year	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births
												Sepsis	Other	Total	
1952	19,710	308	15.3	3	9.6	187	9.3	4	4	8	25.9	—	2	2	6.4
1953	19,770	309	15.6	7	32.4	197	9.9	2	2	4	12.9	—	—	—	—
1954	20,090	325	16.2	1	3.1	198	9.9	3	5	8	24.6	—	—	—	—
1955	20,690	385	18.6	7	17.9	217	10.5	3	—	3	7.8	—	—	—	—
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	—	—	—	—
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	—	—	—	—
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	—	—	—	—
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	—	2	2	2.4
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	—	—	—	—



## NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Civilian).

	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever		2	2	1	1	16	8				30
Whooping Cough	1		1	1		2	3	1			9
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)											
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)											
Measles (excluding rubella)	36	75	82	96	87	291	11	2	2	5	687
Diphtheria											
Dysentery		1									1
Meningococcal infection											
Pneumonia									11		11
Smallpox											
Ac. encephalitis (Infective)											
Ac. encephalitis (Post-Infective)											
Enteric or Typhoid fever											
Paratyphoid fever											
Erysipelas											
Food poisoning											
Puerperal Pyrexia											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum											
Infective Hepatitis						2			1		3
Glandular Fever											
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>741</b>

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1961

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	2							
5 — 14								
15 — 24								
25 — 44	3	3		1				
45 — 64	4							
65 and over		1						
Age unknown								
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>				

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — SECTION 47

### Persons in need of care and attention

This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

During the year it was necessary to take action in two cases under this section.

# Senior Public Health Inspector's Annual Report

## 1961

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### 1. WATER SUPPLY

#### Mains Water

Mains water throughout the District has been sampled at regular intervals and the Public Health Laboratory reports are as follows: —

Number of Samples obtained — 121

Of these, 114 were Highly Satisfactory, 1 Satisfactory and 6 Unsatisfactory. It was found that contamination of the tap had accounted for the Unsatisfactory results, and having regard to the fact that these were all taken from public standpipes, the reports stress the need for providing internal water supply to every house in order that the standpipes can be removed.

It is gratifying to note the rate at which dwelling houses formerly served by standpipes are being provided with an indoor water supply and such standpipes are being removed from the villages.

#### Private Water Supplies

Twenty-seven samples were obtained from various supplies during the year, 19 of which were found to be polluted.

Dane Street Farm, East Hyde, Common Farm, Chalton, and Sandhouse Cottages, Heath and Reach, were mainly responsible for the Unsatisfactory results, and I am glad to be able to report that in connection with the first of these, the supply has been restored to a Satisfactory standard and in the other instances the premises have been connected to the public main. Of the remainder, either the source of pollution has been removed or the premises provided with a wholesome water supply.

#### Discolouration of Water

Complaints of sediment in water supplies have recurred frequently during the year at Barton and Sundon Park. Both the Council's Water and Public Health Committees have expressed serious concern regarding this matter and the Water Undertakers have given assurances that everything possible is being done to remove the sediment from the water and to prevent it reaching the mains supply.

### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The installation of a sewer in the villages of Lower Wooleside, Upper Woodside and Slip End was completed during the year and rapid progress was made in connecting dwelling houses thereto. In fact, the demand for this amenity exceeded the building labour supply available.

It was unfortunate that during most of 1961 circumstances were such that the progress of installing sewers in the unsewered villages of the District was halted. There has been expressed considerable disappointment both in the Council Chamber and in the villages over the delay in implementing the Tilsworth and Sundon schemes.

In 1955 the Council prepared a list of priorities with respect to the laying of sewers but the delays and difficulties met with in implementing the various schemes has created a situation whereby the last of the villages on the list is now justified in making a serious claim for sewerage. The rapid growth taking place in unsewered villages such as Kensworth, Tilsworth, Totternhoe, etc., places an extraordinary burden on the Cesspool Emptying Service. The dearth of sites available for the disposal of cesspool emptier contents aggravates this problem and stresses the need for urgency in providing sewers.

### **3. PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES**

Conditions obtaining in some of the roadside ponds in the District have given rise to a Nuisance. This appears to be largely due to the fact that roadside ponds are used by the Highway Authority who do not accept responsibility for their cleansing and maintenance. The enforcement of abatement of the Nuisance can hardly be required of the frontager who contributes little or nothing towards the filth and silt which reaches the pond from the surface of the highway. These ponds serve an extremely useful purpose in draining large areas of surrounding development and it would be reasonable therefore for the Highway Authority to accept responsibility for keeping the ponds clean and free of conditions which constitute a Nuisance.

Ditches have improved in condition in those areas where sewers have been laid. However, in several parishes the insanitary circumstances obtaining in the ditches are such as stress the urgency for the installation of sewers in order to receive the foul drainage now discharging into the open. Many of these ditches are being cleansed by workmen of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department, but such cleansing only alleviates temporarily.

### **4. RIVERS AND STREAMS**

Where ditches have improved in condition, the natural sequence thereof is immediately noticeable in the rivers and streams traversing the neighbourhood. While ditches and watercourses are being fouled with drainage, neighbouring streams have some difficulty in recovering from such pollution.

### **5. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION**

The rate of conversion of earth and pail closets into water closets progresses at a most satisfactory rate in those areas where sewers have become available, and during the year in the villages of Lower Woodside, Upper Woodside and Slip End, this has been most noticeable.

There are still a number of villages where pail closets and earth closets are the only type of sanitary convenience available to the household, and although the Council have a Night Soil Collection operating in a few of these villages and in other villages for elderly and infirm persons only, disposal of this faecal matter raises problems which can only be solved by effectual drainage and sewerage.

#### **General Observations (2—5)**

Having regard to the foregoing reports, it becomes so obviously clear that the benefits derived from the installation of sewers is out of all proportion to the cost. Furthermore, the Cesspool Emptying Service is running precariously near breakdown point on account of the failure to obtain land for the disposal of cesspool contents.

We have reached a period when even priorities have little significance. The provision of sewers in unsewered villages cannot be denied to them any longer. This is a task which must be completed throughout the District in the 60's.

## 6. CESSPOOL EMPTYING AND REFUSE COLLECTION

These services are administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The cesspool emptying service, operated by 5 vehicles working to maximum capacity, has been further stressed by extensive residential development in unsewered areas. Temporary lack of progress in main drainage schemes has further aggravated this situation, failing to give relief to counteract the extra demand of these new properties, many of which discharge into communal cesspools requiring twice-weekly regular attention.

The refuse collection service, operated by 5 large compression vehicles with two smaller "side-loaders" for outlying districts, maintains a period of collection varying from a week to 10 days.

Difficulty is experienced in both services due to limited disposal points necessitating excessive travelling.

## 7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a numerical summary of inspections, reinspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc., carried out during the year: —

### GENERAL SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	262
Ditches	...	...	...	...	39
Refuse/Accumulations, Deposits, etc.	...	...	...	...	84
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	49
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	128

### NUISANCES

Premises (defects)	...	...	...	...	150
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation (Bugs, fleas)	...	...	...	...	9
„ (Other insects)	...	...	...	...	17
Animals	...	...	...	...	27
Smoke and Dust	...	...	...	...	87
Rodents	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits and Reinspections	...	...	...	...	221
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	2

### SPECIAL PREMISES

Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	...	30
Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	9
Village Halls, Institutes, etc.	...	...	...	...	1
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	17
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	160
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	337
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Agricultural Welfare Act	...	...	...	...	42



## FOOD

General Stores ... ..	135
Butcher's Shops ... ..	40
Fish Shops and Vehicles ... ..	7
Bakehouses ... ..	15
Cafes, Restaurants, etc. ... ..	39
Meat and Food Inspection ... ..	469
Mobile Shops ... ..	77

## MILK AND ICE CREAM

Milk Samples ... ..	3
Churn Rinsings ... ..	3
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	10
Ice Cream Retail Vehicles ... ..	24
Ice Cream Samples ... ..	43

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations ... ..	87
Disinfections ... ..	6
Food Poisoning ... ..	5

## CLEANSING SERVICES ... .. 160

## HOUSING

Houses Inspected ... ..	236
Overcrowding ... ..	4
Reinspections ... ..	20

## MISCELLANEOUS

Welfare ... ..	51
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3135

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## 8. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

104 Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

Nuisances were generally abated within reasonable time and it was not found necessary to resort to Statutory Action in any instance. Where Nuisances have to be abated in connection with premises, the delay is mostly due to the shortage of suitable building labour, little of which is readily available in most villages. Where new houses are being erected in villages, the scarcity of builders for works of repair is even more acute.

### Irresponsible Dumping of Rubbish

This form of vandalism in the countryside appeared to increase during the year and all kinds of household waste, particularly old bicycles, prams and mattresses were to be found along the roadsides and in ditches despite the Council's effort to collect such waste for a modest charge.

The dumping of rubbish and the spoilage of the roadsides continues. Co-operation with the Police has been excellent in trying to prevent these Offences and in several instances Offenders were brought before the Courts. The South Beds. Preservation Society and the National Farmers' Union are also seriously concerned regarding this matter and they have co-operated in reporting deposits of rubbish immediately they become aware thereof.

In order to control this disquieting, filthy practise on the part of irresponsible persons, it is essential that all the Local Authorities concerned and voluntary organisations interested in the preservation and care of the countryside co-operate and resort to some uniformity of action in preventive measures.

## The Noise Abatement Act 1960

Informal action was resorted to in 3 instances.

The first arose from machinery installed in connection with Refrigeration Plant serving a butcher's shop. Eventually suitable insulating seating was provided which appeared to reduce the noise and vibration to a marked degree.

In the second instance, a complaint arose as a result of the continuous vibration of a television aerial fixed to a chimney stack. During reasonable wind the noise was obvious for some distance. The provision of sufficient brackets to hold the aerial firmly soon abated the Nuisance.

In the third instance, the noise was due to a factory Dust Extractor Plant and the fan in connection therewith. On drawing the attention of the Works Engineer to this, steps were immediately taken to reduce the noise and thus abate the Nuisance.

## 9. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The effect of the Control Etc. Act 1960 became evident and on most of the Caravan Sites certain works of improvement required to comply with the Conditions attached to the Site Licence were started. In some instances however, it was not possible to report any progress at all, and where this has been so and where progress has been inadequate, reports thereon have been submitted to the Council's Planning Committee. By the end of the year, the situation with respect to the number of caravans in the District approximated as follows: —

The total number of Licenced Sites	=	55
The total number of Caravans on Licenced Sites	=	671

Particulars with respect to this are as follows: —

Sites with over 100 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with over 50 caravans	...	...	...	...	2
Sites with 20/50 caravans	...	...	...	...	5
					+ 1 holiday (Mar.-Oct.)
Sites with more than 5 and less than 20 caravans	...				4
					+ 1 holiday
Sites with 2/4 caravans	...	...	...	...	8
Sites with only 1 caravan stationed thereon	...	...			32

There are at least 12 unauthorised sites remaining in the District housing between 1 and 50 caravans with a total of 110 caravans.

The Council's Planning Committee is taking appropriate action to enforce the discontinuance of the use of these unauthorised sites or otherwise ensure that the Site is the subject of Planning Approval in order that a Site Licence can be issued.

There is one Site within the District exempt from licencing under the provisions of the Act and holding on an average 10 caravans.

Overcrowding of caravans is still a disquieting feature of this type of accommodation. Furthermore, the number of caravans falling into a state whereby they become unfit for habitation shows a natural tendency to increase, particularly where the owners thereof fail to maintain satisfactory structural conditions.

## 10. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Dust Emission at Houghton Regis, Chalton and Sundon

During the year Deposit Gauges have been in operation at Houghton Regis (Malmsey), Houghton Regis (Manor Park), Houghton Regis (Douglas Crescent), Sundon and Chalton.

The average monthly deposit during the year is shown in relation to averages obtained over the previous three years.

		Houghton Regis Malmsey	Houghton Regis Houghton Road & Douglas Crescent	Sundon Village	Chalton	Barton
1961	...	47.99	29.33	22.34	18.33	—
1960	...	45.21	39.46	24.60	18.35	8.70
1959	...	39.20	—	22.75	17.10	8.98

**Houghton Regis.** The improvement here is not as marked as had been anticipated. The fact that 2 of the precipitators have been overhauled recently has resulted in a lower dust emission. However, it is gratifying to observe some reduction in the average monthly deposit and when the overhauling of the 3rd precipitator is completed in 1962 a further improvement should become evident. Doubtless the dust deposits recorded in Houghton Regis have been influenced by local building operations.

**Sundon and Chalton.** Some improvement has been noted here but conditions have generally been unsatisfactory, and having regard to the distance the Deposit Gauges are from the Cement Works, these figures are considered to be high. Improved methods of dust arrestment were to have been installed during the year but not until late in the year did the necessary works of installation start. It is anticipated that the precipitators will be in operation by the middle of 1962.

Nuisances from the emission of black smoke arose in 2 instances, these being from the factory of the Empire Rubber Company, near Dunstable, and from a railway engine used in conjunction with chalk quarrying by the Rugby Portland Cement Company at Totternhoe. On drawing the Management's attention to the contraventions, steps were taken immediately to abate the Nuisance.

Complaints of fumes emanating from the burning of waste at a garage and from Brick Works situated in the area of a neighbouring Authority were investigated and appropriate informal action taken to eliminate or otherwise limit the emission of fumes.

## 11. HOUSING ACTS 1936 - 1957

### NUMERICAL SUMMARY

						<i>Formal Procedure</i>	<i>Informal Procedure</i>
Undertakings to render fit	...	...	...	...	...	16	20
Undertakings not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	4	18
Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	19	
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	206	
Standing Adjourned	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Section 9 procedure	...	...	...	...	...	25	
Number of houses on which Statutory Action is contemplated during 1962	...	...	...	...	...	52	
						328	38
Number of Houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	107	(Formal)
Number of Houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	63	(Informal)
Houses restored under Section 24 Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	10	

# HOUSING

## HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957

The following is a summary of the results of procedure with respect to Unfit Houses found to be incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost, and have been dealt with accordingly.

Parish	Undertakings to Render Fit	Undertakings not to use for human habitation	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Standing Adjourned	Total	No. of Houses Demolished	Houses Restored under Sec. 24 etc.
BARTON	3	—	—	12	—	15	8	3
BILLINGTON	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	—
CADDINGTON	1	1	—	45	1	48	17	—
CHALGRAVE	1	—	—	17	—	18	7	—
EATON BRAY	—	—	1	12	—	13	9	—
EGGINGTON	4	—	1	—	—	5	—	—
HEATH & REACH	—	1	—	4	3	8	4	2
HOCKLIFFE	2	1	—	7	—	10	3	—
HOUGHTON REGIS	—	1	5	31	2	39	15	1
KENSWORTH	—	—	5	14	—	19	3	—
STANBRIDGE	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—
STREATLEY	—	—	1	6	—	7	6	—
STUDHAM	—	—	1	4	—	5	2	2
SUNDON	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—
TH.SWORTH	—	—	1	2	—	3	1	—
TODDINGTON	3	—	3	27	—	33	17	2
TOTTERNOE	2	—	—	17	—	19	13	—
TOTAL	16	4	19	206	6	251	107	10



# HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Year Ending 31.12.61

## A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during quarter Persons	Families
IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation ... ..	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
(4) As a result of formal or informal Procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	28	27	8
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ... ..	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ... ..	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ... ..	—	—	—
A2. Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed ... ..	—	—	—

## B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	Number		
8) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	1	—	—
(9) Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—
(10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	—	—	—

## C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority ... ..	58	—
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts ... ..	—	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	4	—
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ... ..	1	—

## D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of quarter:	No. of houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) under Section 48 ... ..	—	—
(b) under Section 17 (2) ... ..	—	—
(c) under Section 46 ... ..	—	—
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 ... ..	—	—

## E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants of Houses in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the quarter ...	—	—

## FOOD INSPECTION — FOOD HYGIENE

### Mobile Shops

The following is a list of Mobile Shops found to be operating in the District: —

Bakers ... ..	15
Butchers ... ..	8
Fishmongers ... ..	4
Greengrocers ... ..	18
Grocers ... ..	10
Ice-Cream ... ..	17
Snack Bars, etc. ... ..	1
	<hr/>
	73
	<hr/>

During the year it has become increasingly evident that stricter control is required in the case of Mobile Shops, and the only way of achieving this would appear to be the registration of the vehicles at the bases from which they operate. 73 Mobile Shops were known to be operating in the District during 1961 and there could well have been many more.

135 inspections were carried out in connection with these, 30 letters were written to operators concerning contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and a further 27 given verbal intimation for the same reason. The high proportion of cases where something was amiss was largely due to ignorance, in fact in some instances the salesman concerned was not aware of the existence of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Even where the vehicles are in good condition and well equipped it is often necessary to point out shortcomings to the salesman, for example when a van is equipped with a H.W. Unit the water is frequently found to be cold, or as happened on one occasion, the washhand basin was being used as a till.

Registration would provide some control and the existence of the mobile shop would be known to at least one Public Health Department.

### Ice-Cream

Eleven more premises were registered to sell ice-cream. This brings the total to 79. 41 samples were taken and the results were as follows: —

Grade 1 ... ..	39
Grade 2 ... ..	2
	<hr/>
	41
	<hr/>

Mobile Units manufacturing Soft Ice-Cream commenced operations, all of them coming from depots outside the District. Liaison was maintained with the neighbouring Local Authorities regarding this. The Companies owning the vehicles seem anxious to comply with any suggestions made by the department. The equipment is cleansed and sterilized at the depot under supervision. Difficulties arise however when the salesman concerned has not been properly trained in the use of the apparatus.

It is becoming evident that safe ice-cream is being somewhat jeopardised by the growing practice of mobile vendors and to a lesser degree retail shopkeepers selling an increased quantity of unwrapped ice-cream. This situation arises when the family block is unwrapped, and cut into slices and served unwrapped. One would have thought that the family block was intended for sale in a wrapped condition for slicing in the home and one views with some disquiet the slicing of this ice-cream during the round and on the shop counter. However satisfactory the standard of hygiene under these conditions it cannot compare with that obtaining in the place of manufacture.

Where the standard of hygiene is not satisfactory, this recent practise gives cause for alarm. All ice-cream sold by retail should be wrapped unless sold through a soft ice-cream dispenser.

### Milk — Milk Sampling

Pasteurised	...	...	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
			4	4	—

One sample of T.T. Pasteurised Milk obtained from a kiosk failed the Phosphatase Test.

Particular attention was paid to milk being sold from automatic vending machines.

One complaint was received concerning the damaged condition of the lip of a milk bottle. The Public Health Inspector in whose area the Dairy was situated, was informed and examination of the bottle filling and cleansing plant revealed a mechanical fault which was causing damage to some of the bottles. The fault which was unsuspected was remedied before it had time to occasion a much wider circulation of damaged bottles.

### Retail Premises

One problem found recently in this type of premises is lack of adequate storage space. The advantages of bulk buying from the Wholesaler and the effect of advertising have forced the shopkeeper to store on his premises a much wider variety and much greater quantity of food stuffs than he otherwise might have done. For example, one of the smallest village shops keeps 15 different types of cereal products, while the larger grocer may have between 30/40 different varieties of biscuits.

The improvement or enlargement of storage facilities has been carried out in 15 instances and plans for similar works in other premises are being considered.

### Bakehouses

Seven small bakehouses still function in the District. They are inspected regularly and improvements are continually being carried out. One baker converted his coal-fired oven to oil firing during the year.

### Catering Premises

With the closing of one sub-standard cafe this year it can be said that all the catering premises in the District reached the required standard. It has been found, however, that regular visits are necessary to ensure that the Food Hygiene Regulations regarding food handling and personal cleanliness are observed.

## Licensed Premises

Improvements continue to be carried out at these premises and in several instances they are of a much better standard than could have been required by the Regulations. The increasing ease with which people in towns can reach the country has brought with it improved trade with the consequent demand for better facilities and generally the Brewers appear to be reacting favourably.

## Shell-Fish

Three shell-fish stalls commenced operating from the forecourts of Public Houses in Houghton Regis. All of them were below the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations and the owners when faced with the alternative of bringing the stalls up to standard or discontinuing the business, chose the latter.

## Unfit Food

Three complaints were received concerning unfit food and these are summarised as follows: —

1. **Cream Doughnut containing mice droppings.** The bakehouse concerned was in a neighbouring Authority's area and the matter was referred to the Chief Public Health Inspector.
2. **Mouldy Pork Pie.** This was probably due to the improper rotation of stock by the retailer who was subsequently advised to institute his own code system which would give him a reliable method of ascertaining on which day a particular pie was delivered to his premises.
3. **Peanuts Infested by Insects (Dried Currant Moth).** A member of the public found insect larvae in 4 ozs. of peanuts purchased from a shop in the District. A further 28 lbs. of the nuts were voluntarily surrendered by the shopkeeper when investigations revealed that they were also infected. The shopkeeper had not received any complaints and neither had he noticed the infestation himself. A considerable amount of the affected nuts had therefore been sold over a period of some days before this person complained to the Department.

The reluctance of the public to bring matters of this nature to the right quarter is hard to understand. Complaints of this type often prevent the further sale of unfit food to the public. Retailers, Wholesalers and Manufacturers of food when approached regarding cases of this kind co-operate enthusiastically in finding the cause of the trouble and do their utmost to ensure that it does not recur. With a population nearing 36,000 and approximately 200 premises retailing food in the District, one cannot help feeling that the small number of 3 complaints of this nature made during the year, although giving rise to satisfaction as an abnormally low figure is not a true picture of the actual number of incidents of this kind.

## Inspection of Food

The following quantities of foods were voluntarily surrendered on being found to be unfit for human consumption: —

6—6 lb. Tins Corned Beef  
2 Forequarters of Beef (163 lbs.)  
11 lbs. Frozen Lambs Kidneys  
28 lbs. (approx.) Peanut Kernels  
9 lbs. Cheese  
18 lbs. Pigs Liver



It is noticeable that the amount of food being voluntarily surrendered by reason of unfitness is decreasing. Whereas this is doubtless due to improved methods of manufacture, packing, canning, transport, etc., it is to some extent due to the fact that arrangements between the Wholesaler and Retailer are such that certificates from the Local Authority are rarely demanded by the former.

## Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses

During the year extensive improvements were being carried out at the 3 slaughterhouses now remaining within the Rural District, and 2 slaughterhouses ceased to function as such. It is gratifying to note that whereas in pre-war days there were at least 17 slaughterhouses within the Rural District and 7 of these in operation when decontrol was introduced in 1954 there now remain 3 licenced slaughterhouses which by the end of the year will have reached a satisfactory standard of construction. This of course affords far better control for the purposes of meat inspection and enables a satisfactory standard of hygiene to be maintained during the slaughter and preparation of animals for human consumption and generally throughout the premises. There is no public slaughterhouse within the Rural District.

Most of the meat inspection is carried out between the hours of 7.30 and 9.00 a.m., although from time to time evening work is necessary. All meat intended for human consumption is inspected.

The following are the particulars and records of animals killed, inspected, and percentages of disease discovered on inspection:—

### MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ... ..	815	79	48	1727	956	3625
Number Inspected ... ..	815	79	48	1727	956	3625
Percentage of number killed which were inspected ...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT						
TUBERCULOSIS:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	108	29	—	46	39	222
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	13.25	36.71	—	2.66	4.29	6.18
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	5	5
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	.52	.14



It became evident during the year that the rat population was increasing generally throughout the District. Doubtless the mild winters of the past few years and changing farming methods accounted for some of the increase. Rodent control on farm premises and farm lands has not been as effectual in recent years as was the case when the County Pest Department contracted to destroy rodents on farms. The liaison which formerly obtained between the two Authorities has almost disappeared since the functions were transferred to private contractors.

## Other Pests

Complaints of swarming bees increased during the year. Every effort is made to avoid destroying bees except where they settle in the structure of dwelling houses. Local beekeepers are informed of these swarms and generally their help and co-operation is appreciated.

The Public Health Officers and the Rodent Operative have given much advice to householders on the destruction of various pests and during the year 43 wasps nests were destroyed.

## Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

### PART I OF THE ACT

- The following are details of inspections carried out for the purpose of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occ's Pros. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	5	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	59	30	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	64	34	7	—

- Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	13	11	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	14	11	—	2	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork

#### (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in list required by Section 110	Section 110 No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Section 111 Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing ) Making apparel ) etc.	130	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Classes ...	40	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	174	—	—	—	—	—

### Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

All installations were inspected during the year. Generally conditions were found to be satisfactory but where contraventions are observed the licence holder's attention is drawn to same. There were 70 licences issued and by the end of the year all the electrical installations had been caused to comply with the Model Code of Requirements.

## OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

### Infectious Diseases

All cases of infectious disease reported by the Medical Officer of Health are investigated with a view to tracing the source of the infection.

### National Assistance Act 1948

#### Care of Old Persons

During the year it has been necessary to submit reports with respect to five persons who were incapable of properly caring for themselves and in one instance an Application to the Court for the appropriate Order for removal to a County Residential Home was made. Every possible informal approach is resorted to before an Application is submitted to the Magistrate.

### Schools

Inspections of school premises are carried out from time to time particularly in connection with sanitary accommodation and school canteens. The control of these premises however, being under the County Council, needs but infrequent visits, but the sanitary accommodation obtaining at certain schools within the Rural District is still far below the required standard and the Council have made repeated requests for major improvements in these cases.



## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

One licence is held within the District and from time to time conditions in and about the premises are subject to inspection.

### **Public Health Department — Staff**

Early in the year Mr. T. C. Oliver was appointed as an additional Public Health Inspector in succession to Mr. R. G. Burch who had obtained the post of Deputy Public Health Inspector to the New Forest Rural District Council.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Mr. Oliver for the efficient manner in which he has undertaken his duties and for his loyalty and co-operation during the year.

I am also grateful to the other members of the staff for the excellent work they have done during the year.

Miss E. Joyce—Clerk/Shorthand Typist.

Mrs. W. Birchmore—Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Part-Time).

Mr. E. Todd—Rodent Operative.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**L. G. HILL,**

Senior Public Health Inspector.

